

## Message Text

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TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7167

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNCLAS PARIS 05372

USIAC

USIA FOR IWE

TREASURY DEPARTMENT FOR J.P. SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS FROM SECRETARY SIMON TO  
FRENCH ECONOMIC MAGAZINE QUESTIONS.

1. IMPORTANT ECONOMIC PARIS WEEKLY LA VIE FRANCAISE  
L'OPINION (CIRCULATION ABOUT 150,000) PLANS DISCUSSION  
OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY QUESTIONS IN ITS MID-MARCH  
ISSUE. MAGAZINE ASKS FOR EXCLUSIVE WRITTEN REPLY TO  
QUESTIONS FROM U.S. SECRETARY OF TREASURY SIMON.  
QUESTIONS BELOW. DEADLINE FOR ANSWERS MARCH 12 BUT  
MAGAZINE WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE  
TO ANSWER QUESTIONS. MAGAZINE WISHES TEXT TO RUN ABOUT  
1200 WORDS.

2. POST REALIZES SHORTNESS OF DEADLINE BUT IN VIEW OF  
LIVERLY FRENCH INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SITU-  
ATION AND IMPACT OF DOLLAR DECLINE CONSIDERS SECRETARY  
SIMON'S RESPONSE AS HIGHLY USEFUL TO COUNTER NUMEROUS  
AND OFTEN ERRONEOUS PRESS SPECULATIONS. ONCE MATERIAL  
PUBLISHED IT WOULD BE VALUABLE IN OTHER CONTEXTS.

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3. APPRECIATE AGENCY'S ASSISTANCE AT PROPER LEVEL TO

OBTAIN SECRETARY SIMON'S EARLY CONCURRENCE.

4. QUESTIONS FROM LA VIE FRANCAISE L'OPINION FOLLOW.

FRENCH TEXT IN PARENTHESES:

A. THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR DECLINES, YET THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOTHING TO SUPPORT THE DOLLAR. WHY?  
(LE DOLLAR BAISSE, LE GOUVERNEMENT US NE LE SOUTIENT PAS. POURQUOI ?).

B. IN YOUR OPINION, IS THE PRESENT RATE OF EXCHANGE OF THE DOLLAR REALISTIC ? (A VOTRE AVIS, LES TAUX ACTUELS DE CHANGE DU DOLLAR SONT-ILS REALISTES ?)

C. THE DOLLAR'S DECLINE IS SUBSTANTIALLY ERODING THE RESOURCES OF THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES. COULD THIS NOT CAUSE NEW MONETARY DISORDERS AND NEW TENSIONS BETWEEN THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES AND THE COUNTRIES IMPORTING OIL AND RAW MATERIALS ? (LA BAISSE DU DOLLAR DIMINUE FORTEMENT LES RESSOURCES DES PRODUCTEURS PETROLIERS. NE RISQUE-T-ELLE PAS D'ENTRAINER DES DESORDRES MONETAIRES NOUVEAUX ET UNE NOUVELLE TENSION DES RAPPORTS ENTRE PAYS PRODUCTEURS ET PAYS CONSOMMATEURS DE PETROLE ET DE MATIERES PREMIERES?)

D. IS IT NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE LARGE AMOUNT OF DOLLARS OUTSIDE THE U.S. COULD CREATE A SORT OF INDEPENDENT UNIVERSAL CURRENCY QUITE SEPARATE FROM THE "DOMESTIC DOLLAR" AND OUTSIDE EFFECTIVE USGOVERNMENT CONTROL?  
(LA MASSE DE DOLLARS EXTERIEURS AUX USA NE PEUT-ELLE ENTRAINER LA CREATION D'UN DOLLAR-DEVISE UNIVERSEL DECONNECTE DU "DOMESTIC DOLLAR" ET ECHAPPANT AU POUVOIR DES USA ?)  
ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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